

*Replacement Paragraph for the priority claim at page 1, lines 4-7*

**Related Applications**

a1 This Application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/575,503, filed May 19, 2000, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/134,895, filed May 19, 1999, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

**In The Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-25 without prejudice. Please amend claims 26-27 and add new claims 30-38 as follows. A marked up version of the amended claims is attached at the end of this Preliminary Amendment.

a2 26. (Amended) A method of treating a condition alleviated by the administration of interferon-alpha, the method comprising the step of administering to a mammal a fusion protein that binds an Fc receptor expressed on a target cell, wherein the fusion protein comprises in an N- to C-terminal direction an immunoglobulin Fc region and an interferon-alpha protein, thereby to treat a condition in said mammal.

27. (Amended) A method of treating a condition alleviated by the administration of interferon-alpha, the method comprising the step of administering to a mammal a multimeric protein comprising at least two fusion proteins, wherein the multimeric protein binds an Fc receptor expressed on a target cell, and wherein each fusion protein comprises in an N- to C-terminal direction an immunoglobulin Fc region and an interferon-alpha protein, thereby to treat a condition in said mammal.

30. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the target cell is a liver cell.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the target cell is a liver cell.

a3 32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the condition is a liver disorder.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the liver disorder is hepatitis.

34. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region.

35. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region and an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region domain.

36. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the immunoglobulin Fc region comprises an immunoglobulin hinge region and an immunoglobulin CH3 domain.

Q3 37. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the multimeric protein comprises at least two fusion proteins that are linked via a covalent bond.

38. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the fusion protein is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a signal sequence; (b) an immunoglobulin Fc region; and (c) an interferon-alpha sequence,

wherein the signal sequence, the immunoglobulin Fc region and the interferon-alpha sequence are encoded serially in a 5' to 3' direction.

#### REMARKS

Applicants cancel originally filed claims 1-25 without prejudice. Applicants amend claims 26-27 and introduce new claims 30-38. Accordingly, after the entry of this Amendment, claims 26-38 will be pending for examination. Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced and that claims 26-38 are in condition for allowance.

#### Amendments to the Specification

The specification is amended to include a specific reference to an earlier filed Application the benefit of which is claimed herein under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that no new matter is introduced.